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## **Salisbury Police and Fire Collect Over 2,000 Toys and \$4,000 in Donations during 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Toys for Tots Fundraiser**

*City Emergency Service Workers Brave Winter Rain and Cold to Secure Holiday Happiness for Local Children in Need*

Salisbury, NC\_December 15, 2010 – The Salisbury Police and Salisbury Fire Departments collected 2,085 toys and \$4,000 in cash donations during their recent Toys for Tots fundraiser. Salisbury police officers and firefighters spent the weekend of Friday, December 10 through Sunday, December 12 on the rooftop of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, 1428 W. Innes Street. City emergency service workers braved the wintry elements to solicit donations in support of the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Program. This year's event marked the third annual "Up on the Rooftop" Toy Drive conducted at Krispy Kreme by the city's police and fire departments. The vigil commenced at 6 am on Friday, December 10 and concluded at approximately 3 pm on Sunday, December 12.

On Friday afternoon, Mayor Susan Kluttz joined the fundraising efforts underway. After delivering her personal contribution to the site, Mayor Kluttz climbed the ladder to the Krispy Kreme rooftop and joined fire and police efforts to encourage donations. Mayor Kluttz offers, "It was sincerely my honor to join the dedicated members of our Salisbury police and fire departments during this year's toy drive. Their devotion and commitment to local youth are a fine example of the same outstanding service they provide for our citizens each and every day." Kluttz notes that citizen response to the weekend fundraiser has been overwhelming. "I am consistently amazed at the generosity of our loyal and caring citizens and we are indeed thankful for their contributions. Even amidst tough economic times, their kindness and compassion will ensure that local children are remembered during this holiday season."

Master Police Officer Mark Shue, Fire Engineer Chipper Thomas, and Police Officer II Rebecca Sexton organize the city's annual Toys for Tots fundraiser each year. Officer Shue explains, "By teaming up with Rowan County's Toys for Tots Coordinator Arbe Arbelaez, we are able to ensure that all gifts and donations are shared with local children in need. We sincerely thank the members of our community for their generous donations." Shue notes that as a result of the toy drive, 855 local children will receive Christmas gifts this year. "That's really just a small portion of those who will be assisted through Toys for Tots, but that's 855 kids that we can truly be proud of helping."

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